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SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 23 DECEMBER 2001

This is Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with its weekly news bulletin. This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at www.sarl.org.za and packet bulletin boards.

Here are the headlines of today's news:

THE SARL CALLS FOR NOMINATIONS FOR AWARDS

NOMINATIONS INVITED FOR THE TINUS LANGE 7066 TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS

PEARS VHF/UHF CONTEST IN JANUARY

ALL-HAM CREW ON ABOARD ISS; SCHOOL CONTACTS SCHEDULED

NEW ADDRESS FOR SARLNEWS

PROPAGATION CONDITIONS

You are listening to ZS6SRL. The news follows in detail.

THE SARL CALLS FOR NOMINATIONS FOR AWARDS.

The South African Radio League, the national society for Amateur Radio in South Africa is calling for nominations for various awards to be presented at the Annual General Meeting Dinner on 20 April 2002. Nominations are invited for the following awards.

Arthur Hemsley 2 metre Trophy. Awarded by Council to a Radio Amateur for his/her individual achievements with transmissions in the 2 metre amateur band. This award is made for extraordinary performance on EME or modes such as tropospheric propagation. It is not for the longest distance worked but rather for persistence in achieving something special on 2 metres.

Barney Joel Trophy. Awarded by Council to any member of the SARL for the best performance during the year whilst working HF mobile. This award could be made for performance by an individual in rally or other public event communication etc.

Icom Excellence Award. This award is bestowed annually by Council on the amateur who through his/her activity in the Amateur Service has brought international recognition to South Africa by either the achievement of a VHF/UHF long distance record which is internationally recognised by the IARU, or by service to the Republic of South Africa or the SARL in the field of scientific

research using the amateur spectrum, or in promoting the amateur service internationally or as Council may determine from time to time.

Joseph White Plaque. Awarded by Council to any member of the SARL for exceptional achievements in the 432 MHz band during the past year. This is not awarded for the longest distance worked, but for all round achievements.

Bert Buckley Six metre Trophy. Awarded by Council to any radio amateur for his/her individual achievements with transmissions in the six metre amateur band. This award is not for the longest distance worked but for outstanding work or activity on six metres.

Radio ZS Two Metre Floating Trophy. Awarded by Council to the amateur who achieved the longest distance on the 2 metre amateur band during the year.

Gary Immelman Radio Amateur Heritage Award Floating Trophy. Awarded by Council for the best historic article of an event that occurred more than 5 years previously or an interesting personality that has played an important part in the development of Amateur Radio in years gone by.

Radio ZS Shield. Awarded by the Editor of Radio ZS to a SARL affiliated Club or member who best supported Radio ZS during the year.

JJ Pienaar Trophy. Awarded by the Editor of Radio ZS for the best article published in Radio ZS during the past year.

To reward achievements is important for continued future development says SARL President, Hans Potgieter. " I encourage all Radio Clubs to seriously look at the achievements amongst radio amateurs in their area and to submit detailed nominations timeously.

The closing date for nominations is 22 February 2002. Nominations should be addressed to The Secretary, SARL Annual Awards, PO BOX 1721 STRUBENSVALLEI 1735.

NOMINATIONS INVITED FOR THE TINUS LANGE 7066 TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Nominations are also now invited for the Tinus Lange 7066 Junior and Senior Technical Awards. The closing date for submission of nominations is 31 January 2002 so there is enough time left to think who really deserve these prestigious awards, but, do not delay, get going now.

Full details were given in the previous two bulletins. If you perhaps do not have it to hand, you may request it from gth@freemail.absa.co.za and it will be supplied with pleasure

Nominations must be addressed to: SARL Tinus Lange Awards, P O Box 1721, Strubensvallei, 1735.

PEARS VHF/UHF CONTEST IN JANUARY

As announced previously, the Port Elizabeth Amateur Radio Society's annual VHF/UHF contest will take place over the weekend 25 to 27 January 2002. One of the new categories in the contest, the CLUB STATION, permits operation of a single station by a number of operators, all using the same call sign.

To accommodate groups who, for any reason, cannot represent clubs, PEARS has decided to extend the category to include ANY MULTI-OPERATOR STATION under the conditions quoted for club stations. In the rules, which PEARS thought would be published in the December 2001 issue of RADIO ZS but will now only appear in January, the term "club station" should therefore be replaced with "multi-operator station" and the term "under its own club call sign" should be replaced with "under a single call sign".

Clubs are asked to include this item in several of their local weekly bulletins in order to reach as many potential participants as possible.

The updated rules are obtainable from the PEARS web site, pears.8m.com

There is also a new category for digital modes.

ALL-HAM CREW SETTling IN ABOARD ISS; SCHOOL CONTACTS SCHEDULED

For the first time, there's an all-ham crew aboard the International Space Station. The Expedition 4 crew of Commander Yuri Onufrienko, RK3DUO, and flight engineers Dan Bursch, KD5PNU, and Carl Walz, KC5TIE, will remain in orbit for the next six months.

Expedition 3 crew members returned to Earth December 17 aboard the shuttle Endeavour. They had been aboard the ISS since August. Operating as NA1SS from aboard the ISS, commander Culbertson completed nearly two dozen successful ARISS school and educational contacts.

Now it will be the Expedition 4 crew's turn. Two school contacts are already on the ARISS schedule for the new crew. Depending on the crew's work activities, an effort will be made to schedule one ARISS school or educational contact during a typical week.

New Amateur Radio antennas carried into space for the ISS have been stowed for the time being. Current plans call for them to be installed around the perimeter of the Service Module by the Expedition 6 crew. The new antennas will allow future operation from HF to microwave frequencies, once additional ham gear is brought aboard the ISS.

CLOSING OF THE SARL OFFICE

Please be advised that the SARL office at the National Amateur Radio Centre has closed for the festive season and will re-open again on Tuesday the 8th January 2002.

RADIO ZS

The last edition of Radio ZS for this year was mailed last Monday.

This edition contains an important article by the SARL President and no less than eight articles on club or group activities on pages 6, 7, 9, 12, 33, 34, 37 and 39. This is outstanding and may it serve as examples and encouragement to other clubs to undertake similar or other activities and make the results known in Radio ZS.

In an effort to publish the first 2002 issue timeously, the closing date for submission of articles to the editor is 31 December this year which is only one week away.

NEW ADDRESS FOR SARLNEWS

Subscribers and listeners please note that the Mweb address of SARLNEWS has been terminated. In future please send all news items to sarlnews@hotmail.com. The necessity for a copy to gth also falls away. The new address will be accessible to all future news editors.

PROPAGATION CONDITIONS

Propagation prognosticator Tad Cook, K7VVV, Seattle, Washington, reported:

Today is the "shortest" day of the year! Check out the nighttime bands such as 160 and 80 meters.

Solar flux and sunspot numbers were slightly lower this past week compared to the previous period. Average sunspot numbers were off by a little more than four points, and average solar flux was down by nearly eleven.

The view of the sun currently shows a few spots, with not much activity. The current outlook shows solar flux rising slowly in the near term, reaching a peak in the period December 30 through January 2. Solar flux is predicted to be right around 215 for Friday through Monday, and then rising slowly after that.

Sunspot numbers for December 13 through 19 were 212, 202, 198, 204, 215, 210 and 158, with a mean of 199,9. The 10.7-cm flux was 220,2, 245,8, 217,8, 209,1, 205,5, 211,8 and 208,2, with a mean of 216,9. The estimated planetary A indices were 4, 4, 11, 10, 15, 8 and 9 with a mean of 8,7.

CLUB NEWS

FREE STATE HAM RADIO EVENT

The Bloemfontein Amateur Radio Club is planning Hamvention 020202 on Saturday 02 February 2002 at their club house at Air Force Base Bloemspruit. More details to follow. (I wonder whether the time will be 02:02 CAT? Editor).

This being the last bulletin before Christmas this year it is the sincere wish of Sarlnews that all may experience the true significance of the festive season, that of bringing peace to the world, personally as well as globally.

The SARL News Service invites Clubs and individuals to contribute news regarding Amateur Radio. Please send all news items to sarlnews@hotmail.com. It will be highly appreciated if it is done in Afrikaans as well as English and sent as early in the week as possible.

Also join us in the following activities: The President's Net on Sundays 12:00 on 7082 kHz; Amateur Radio Mirror International Sundays at 10:00 on 9750 and 21560 kHz which is repeated Mondays at 20:00 on 3215 kHz.

We thank all contributors, individuals, clubs, the ARRL and other organisations for contributions to this bulletin and all stations who so reliably relay the bulletins.

This bulletin was compiled by George, ZS6NE, and read by.....from

You have been listening to ZS6SRL.

This bulletin now ends and Sarlnews wishes you a pleasant week.

Goodbye to all. /EX